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National Wildlife Health Center

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USGS National Wildlife Health Center Quarterly Mortality Reports

Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report October 2001 to December 2001						
Reported State	Location	Dates	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	By
AR	Anchorage & Matanuska-Susitna Valley	01/01/01-12/31/01	Black-capped Chickadee, Black-billed Magpie, Northwestern Crow, Steller's Jay, Downy-Woodpecker	200*(e)	Deformities: Etiology undetermined	AK
AR	Garland Co., Lake Ouachita	12/13/01-ongoing	Bald Eagle	1	Vacuolar myelinopathy	NW
AR	Mississippi Co., Burdette	05/10/01-05/26/01	Southern Leopard Frog	20,000(e)	Environmental Stress	NW
CA	Los Angeles Co., San Francisquito Canyon	08/29/01-10/23/01	Pacific Tree Frog	9*	Fungal Infection: Chytrid	NW
CA	Santa Clara & Alameda Co.; Artesia Slough, Coyote Creek & San Jose	06/20/01-11/10/01	Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, California Gull	1,660	Botulism suspect	SF
CO	El Paso & Teller Co., Colorado Springs area	06/01/01-ongoing	Raccoon, Red Fox	900(e)	Canine distemper	CO

CO	Otero Co., La Junta	09/17/01-09/21/01	American White Pelican, American Avocet, Ring-billed Gull, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal	1,825	Trauma: Hailstorm	CO
FL	Alachua Co Gainesville	07/01/01-11/01/01	Southern Leopard Frog Green Tree Frog	180(e)	Hepatitis, Ulcerative dermatitis	NW
FL	Lake Apopka	10/24/01-10/30/01	American Coot, Bald Eagle	21	Trauma	NW
FL	Lee Co., Gasparilla Is.	12/14/01-ongoing	American White Pelican	14	Open	NW
GA	Glynn Co., Brunswick Harbor	10/09/01-10/14/01	Ruddy Turnstone	170(e)	Toxicosis suspect: Urea	SC
GA	J. Strom Thurmond Lake/Clarks Hill Lake	10/20/01-ongoing	Canada Goose Bald Eagle	25	Vacuolar myelinopathy	NW
ID	Valley Co., S. Fork of Salmon River	08/25/01-10/09/01	Idaho Giant Salamander	11(e)	Fungal Infection: Chytrid	NW
MD	Queen Annes Co Stevensville	10/08/01-11/13/01	Great Blue Heron	10	Steatitis	MD,NW
MI	Saginaw Co., Saginaw	07/01/01-11/05/01	American Goldfinch	10	Trauma	NW
MS	Harrison Co., Gulfport	10/01/01-10/10/01	House Finch	4(e)	Conjunctivitis: Mycoplasma suspect	NW,LU

MT	Ravalli Co.	08/01/01-08/05/01	Boreal Toad	1000(e)	Open	NW
MT	Ravalli Co., Sweeney Creek Headwaters	06/08/01-06/14/01	Columbia Spotted Frog	111	Exposure: Hypothermia	NW
NC	Carteret Co., Bouge Banks	10/23/01-10/23/01	Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Blue Warbler	100(e)	Trauma: Tower strike	NW
NC	Moore Co., Woodlake	10/24/01-ongoing	American Coot	2	Vacuolar myelinopathy	NW
NY	Dutchess Co., Poughkeepsie	10/22/01-10/22/01	Gray Squirrel	3	Toxicosis: Brodifacoum	NY
NY	Monroe Co., Perinton	10/05/01-10/08/01	American Crow	5	Toxicosis: Avitrol	NY
NY	Niagara Co., Lewiston	12/18/01-12/18/01	Canada Goose	14	Toxicosis: Zinc phosphide	NY
NY	Niagara Co., Niagara Falls	09/12/01-09/14/01	Rock Dove	4	Toxicosis: Avitrol	NY
NY	Rensselaer Co., Reichards Lake	11/09/01-11/23/01	Canada Goose	5	Lead poisoning	NY
NY	Schenectady Co., Scotia	06/22/01-08/22/01	Gray Squirrel	8	Toxicosis: Brodifacoum	NY
OR	Ankeny Slough NWR	10/24/01-11/10/01	Canada (Cackling) Goose	25	Aspergillosis	NW

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PAN	Canal Zone, Panama	05/30/01-08/08/01	Tungara Frog	11	Toxicosis suspect: pesticide	NW
UT	Davis Co., Great Salt Lake	12/17/01-12/31/01	Eared Grebe, California Gull	10,000(e)	Bacterial Infection: Erysipelothrix rhusiopathae	NW
UT	Salt Lake City, Mill Creek	10/05/01-10/12/01	Mallard	14	Botulism type C	NW
UT	Wasatch Co., Heber Valley	09/06/01-11/15/01	Columbia Spotted Frog	9	Fungal Infection: • Chytrid	NW
WI	Door Co., Sturgeon Bay	08/31/01-09/28/01	Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Unidentified Scaup	42	Botulism type C & E	NW, WI
WI	Milwaukee Co., Jackson Park	09/10/01-09/13/01	Mallard, Ring-billed Gull	9	Botulism type C	NW, WI
WI	Vilas Co., Lac Vieux Desert	07/01/01-07/31/01	Ring-billed Gull	10(e)	Salmonellosis	WI
WI	WI River area	11/27/01-ongoing	Bald Eagle	7	Open	NW, WI
Updates:						
CA	Imperial Co., Sonny Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR	05/18/01-11/09/01	Brown Pelican, American White Pelican, Ring-billed Gull, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck	262, 409*	Botulism type C	NW
CA	Sacramento NWR Complex	07/28/01-11/19/01	Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Northern Pintail,	581	Botulism type C	NW

			Green-winged Teal, American Coot			
MT	Gallatin Co., Beaver Creek	07/10/01-07/11/01	Columbia Spotted Frog	27	Viral Infection: Iridovirus	NW
RI	Washington Co., Exeter	07/08/01-07/15/01	Wood Frog	10,000(e)	Viral Infection: Iridovirus	NW
UT	Utah Co., near Elberta	07/01/01-07/10/01	California Gull	500(e)	Dehydration	NW

(e) = estimate, * = morbidity and mortality

Bosque del Apache NWR (BA), California Fish & Game (CA), Colorado Division of Wildlife (CO), Houston Zoo (HZ), Louisiana State University (LU), National Wildlife Health Center (NW), New Jersey Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (NJ), Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation (OW), Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SC), Texas Park & Wildlife Dept. (TX), Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WA), Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (WI).

Written and compiled by Kimberli Miller, Kathryn Converse and Audra Schrader, National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). The Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/>. To report mortality or if you would like specific information on these mortalities, contact one of the following NWHC staff: Western US Kathryn Converse; Eastern US--Kimberli Miller; Hawaiian Islands--Thierry Work. Phone (608) 270-2400, FAX (608) 270-2415 or E-mail kathy_converse@usgs.gov. National Wildlife Health Center, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711.

Atlantic Brant in New Jersey

Atlantic brant mortality, first noted at Edwin B. Forsyth NWR in New Jersey in November 2000, occurred again in mid January 2001, along the coast near Atlantic City. Over 700 brant were collected during each wave of mortality for a total of over 1400 birds. Necropsy observations during both events included tissue hemorrhage and lung edema. Attempts by a variety of methods, including electron microscopy, failed to detect viral or bacterial etiologic agents including West Nile virus, duck plague, Newcastle disease and avian influenza. Tests for botulinum toxins and rodenticides were negative and brain acetylcholinesterase activity was within normal limits. Multiple state and federal agencies collaborated on the diagnostic and field response to this event. Media interest was very high.

Morbidity and Mortality in Florida

Brown pelican morbidity and mortality was first noted in the Marquesas Keys, Florida in late December and continued intermittently through March. Affected birds appeared lethargic with droopy heads, had difficulty flying and swimming or were unable to move at all. There were no consistent necropsy findings in the several pelicans necropsied at the National Wildlife

Health Center (NWHC), no significant bacteria or viruses were isolated and tests for avian botulism type C and E were negative. However, two birds had moderate brain acetylcholinesterase activity depression (39% and 51%) and toxicology analysis will be pursued. Mortalities in loggerhead turtles have also occurred in southern Florida with nearly 150 sick and dead turtles found since September. Marine animal specialists have been working to determine the cause of this turtle mortality. A link between the pelican die-off and loggerhead deaths has not been established.

Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy

Avian vacuolar myelinopathy (AVM) occurred in various locations during 2000, with the majority of cases occurring at Woodlake in North Carolina and J. Strom Thurmond/Clark's Hill Lake on the Georgia-South Carolina border. Each year there seems to be a change in the epizootiology of this disease. The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) documented the first loss of several bald eagles from AVM outside of Arkansas at J. Strom Thurmond/Clark's Hill Lake as well as AVM in several new species including 2 great horned owls, 1 killdeer and 3 Canada geese. Wildlife Disease Specialists from SCWDS and NWHC conducted a field investigation at the site in late November 2000. Based on diagnostic and research work to date, the cause of AVM is thought to be due to either a naturally occurring or man-made chemical. NWHC research with sentinel birds in North Carolina has shown that the occurrence of AVM is site specific and has a fairly rapid onset. A variety of agencies will continue research efforts to determine the cause of this disease and route of exposure.

Avian Cholera in Arkansas

Over 200 American coots died over a 2-week period in early January in Arkansas County, Arkansas. SCWDS confirmed the mortality was due to avian cholera. This is the first record of avian cholera mortality in Arkansas in either the NWHC or SCWDS databases.

Louisiana Mortality

Cowbird and blackbird mortality was noted in January and February 2001, over an extensive area of southern Louisiana. Salmonellosis was diagnosed by Louisiana State University. An estimated 100 cowbirds and blackbirds found dead and dying on a golf course in East Baton Rouge Parish appear to be unrelated mortalities as brain acetylcholinesterase activity was found to be significantly depressed in several birds examined at NWHC. This is suggestive of recent exposure to an organophosphate compound.

For additional information please contact **Dr. Scott Wright**, USGS National Wildlife Health Center - Disease Investigations Branch Chief, at 608-270-2460 or **Paul Slota**, USGS National Wildlife Health Center - Support Services Branch Chief at 608-270-2420.

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